

SUMMARY.

The committee of the Copenhagen University finds that Dr. Cook's records contain no proof that he reached the North Pole.

Press comments in London and New York suggest that the committee's report of Dr. Cook's previous record is based on the Pole.

The Queen of Lords has affirmed the Court of Appeal's decision against the payment of £100,000 of the £1,000,000 of the miners' strike.

At the funeral of King Leopold the Duke of Connaught will represent King Edward, and Prince Henry of Prussia.

At a meeting of the London Chamber of Commerce Sir Albert Spicer reported the results of the Commerce Congress at Sydney.

He said he was greatly struck with the enormous production of Australia and the resourcefulness of its people.

Mr. Asquith, at Liverpool, addressed Earl Cadogan's "heroic and valiant" picture of the Government of Belfast.

The Prime Minister said the navy was able to maintain the supremacy of the seas.

The visit of Mr. T. P. O'Connor, M.P., to America resulted in the addition of £10,000 to the funds of the Irish Parliamentary party.

Mr. O'Connor stated that the endorsement of Home Rule helped to locate the party's strength.

The fifth corps has been recovered from the ruins of the fire which destroyed Messrs. Arding and Hobbs' drapery store at Clapham.

There were distressing scenes during the fall of the assistants.

The firm recently returned an American offer of \$1,000,000 for the goods, stocks and buildings in connection with the business.

Senior Madras, the son of General Goldsmith, has been proclaimed President of Nicaragua.

The Khedive of Egypt has arrived at Mecca on pilgrimage.

The service he attended at the Mosque of the Prophet was one of the greatest spectacles of half a century.

Mr. H. Gladstone, Home Secretary, has been appointed Governor-General of South Africa.

Lord Kitchener arrived at Port Denison on Tuesday, and was welcomed by H.M.R. Encountered by Major-General Head, on behalf of the Commonwealth.

All hopes of an early settlement of the strike in the southern mines have now been abandoned until after the New Year.

The miners' general secretary stated yesterday that the meeting will not be held until after the New Year.

The southern coal owners were in Sydney yesterday, but the masters dismissed had no particular connection with the strike.

There will be no further meetings for a week or so, unless something important crops up.

It is admitted in the south that the resumption of work in the Lithgow district is the turning point in the strike.

It is said to be only a matter of time when the South Coast must also strike.

It was rumoured yesterday that a ballot would be held to ascertain the men's views on the question of resuming work.

The delegates appointed to secure additional support for the South Clifton miners, who have been out of work for three months, returned to Clifton from Sydney.

They report having met with a fair amount of success. Supplies are to be distributed to tide the miners' families over Christmas.

It is anticipated that the gas at North Sydney will be turned on again to-night.

The Chief Commissioner has notified that short-haul trains will be run during the Christmas holidays.

The wharf-labourers struck work on the Nordentzschke wharf yesterday over the question of coal from a non-union mine.

The compulsory industrial board sat in Newcastle yesterday. Judge Scholten presiding.

Mr. Bowring at the outcast Colliery Employee Protection Board.

His Honor replied that Mr. Paterson's position on the board was untenable.

The board adjourned until January 10 to ascertain the federation to consider the position.

There seems to be some hope that the board may now be accepted.

The miners at the Ingleburn colliery, Callan Bullen, resumed work yesterday morning.

The mine is now practically being worked by union labour.

There are indications that the Young Wallase and Babbie Main mines will not continue to work for longer.

The miners repeat an order from the federation that they shall contribute 2% per cent of their earnings to the general fund.

The Lord Mayor laid before the finance committee of the City Council yesterday a minute on civic finance.

It is anticipated that the surplus at the close of the year will be approximately £25,000.

It was recommended that £21,000 of the surplus be set aside toward the improvements at the Flemington racecourse.

In view of the shortage in the water supply the Water and Sewerage Board has prohibited the use of sprinklers.

The gravitation supply at Prospect reservoir is estimated to last for 12 days.

The Liverpool council has adopted stringent measures to prevent motorists from "scratching" through the town.

The experimental wheat plots at Millthorpe are expected to average 20 bushels to the acre.

A public meeting at Hay decided to urge upon the Government the construction of a weir in the Murrumbidgee below the town.

At the inquiry into the fire in the railway works at the Mittagong Junction, W.A., an open verdict was returned.

An insurance policy for £25,000 lapsed a week before the fire, the department deciding to initiate its own insurance fund.

The award of the Plumbers and Gasfitters' Board provides for a week of 48 hours with a minimum rate of 1s 4d per hour.

Three men lost their lives in an explosion at a hotel in the Clarence district.

Two other men were injured by the explosion, one of them being in a critical state.

The Broken Hill Council has been urged to ask the Government to have a supply of water sent at once to the Barracks for household purposes.

Much havoc has been caused by a plague of grasshoppers in the Moa Vale district.

A large area of country in the Albury district was devastated by bush fires.

Some very good wheat averages have been obtained in the Cudal district.

Thirteen bags, equaling 40 bushels per acre, have been stripped on several farms.

The average for the district will be about 22 bushels per acre.

The Ministry of South Australia has been reconstructed, owing to the resignation of Messrs. Coome, Mitchell, and Addison.

Mr. A. H. Peake is Premier, Commissioner for Lands, and Minister for Education.

The Treasurer and Minister controlling the Northern Territories, Mr. Peake.

Legislation is to be introduced in New Zealand next session to give effect to the report of the Timber Commission.

The report, in effect, recommends an increased duty on Oregon pine.

The New Zealand House of Representatives has passed the Defence Bill, providing for the compulsory training of youths.

The Assembly of Western Australia had an all-night session yesterday, and the prorogation took place yesterday.

Sir John Forrest was accorded a civic reception in the Perth Town Hall.

Sir John expressed the hope that future Federal sessions would be reduced to four months.

A public meeting at Perth decided in favour of the abolition of capital punishment, on the ground that it had failed as a deterrent.

A cattle market was experienced in making stocks necessary, the business recorded being on a small scale.

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The Sydney Morning Herald.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1909.

WHY NOT MEDIATION?

The suggestion that Sir George Reid might be asked to mediate in the present crisis has been received coldly by the Premier, and with something like ridicule by the section of the community which may be said to represent the view of extremes. We are supposed to be offering an evasion or abrogation of the law after insisting that it should be strengthened and vindicated. The idea seems to be that, because the miners are now a chance of applying some of the salve of personality to a raw spot in the body politic, we again appeal for the interference which would assist no law, and which might very well establish the law.

It is a case of put yourself in his place. Here we have thousands of our own people, the working miners of the Newcastle and Maitland districts, their womenfolk, and their children, all out of work, idle, unhappy, poverty-stricken in the midst of abundance, and at the season when these conditions are most out of place. They are held back by the failure of their one remedy for industrial grievances, by disappointment with their leaders, by finding themselves as individuals and as a class confronted with all the institutions of the country arrayed in hostility against them. They see no way out of the difficulty, except to surrender completely, or to still, reluctantly, to the voice, the smile, of her that once sat there.

POINTING.—In loving memory of Joshua James Pointing, who died on December 16, 1908, aged 4 months. Till we meet at Jesus' feet, inserted by his loving father, mother, brothers, and sisters. M.C. Pointing, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48, 50, 52, 54, 56, 58, 60, 62, 64, 66, 68, 70, 72, 74, 76, 78, 80, 82, 84, 86, 88, 90, 92, 94, 96, 98, 100, 102, 104, 106, 108, 110, 112, 114, 116, 118, 120, 122, 124, 126, 128, 130, 132, 134, 136, 138, 140, 142, 144, 146, 148, 150, 152, 154, 156, 158, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 172, 174, 176, 178, 180, 182, 184, 186, 188, 190, 192, 194, 196, 198, 200, 202, 204, 206, 208, 210, 212, 214, 216, 218, 220, 222, 224, 226, 228, 230, 232, 234, 236, 238, 240, 242, 244, 246, 248, 250, 252, 254, 256, 258, 260, 262, 264, 266, 268, 270, 272, 274, 276, 278, 280, 282, 284, 286, 288, 290, 292, 294, 296, 298, 300, 302, 304, 306, 308, 310, 312, 314, 316, 318, 320, 322, 324, 326, 328, 330, 332, 334, 336, 338, 340, 342, 344, 346, 348, 350, 352, 354, 356, 358, 360, 362, 364, 366, 368, 370, 372, 374, 376, 378, 380, 382, 384, 386, 388, 390, 392, 394, 396, 398, 400, 402, 404, 406, 408, 410, 412, 414, 416, 418, 420, 422, 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NEWS ON AUSTRALIA.

MR ALBERT SPICER'S REPORT.

DRASTIC LABOUR CONCILIATION.

FEELING FOR PREFERENCE.

LONDON, Dec. 22.

At a special meeting of the London Chamber of Commerce held yesterday Sir Albert Spicer, M.P., reported that a warm welcome was given by Australia to the delegates to the Empire Congress of Chambers of Commerce.

Sir Albert Spicer considered that Australian methods of conciliation were more drastic than British, and the demarcation was greater than in Britain between capital and labour. He greatly regretted that the delegates had had no opportunity of coming closer into touch with the Labour party.

He was greatly struck with the enormous production of Australia, the energy and resourcefulness of the people, and the active assistance given by the Government in fostering industries in their early stages. He was also struck with the active co-operation which existed between the Chambers of Commerce and the State Governments.

Australians were very cosmopolitan buyers. They liked to have a British article, but they must have what they wanted. He believed Australia as a nation was quite willing to give a small preference, but as individuals not much of a preference, as they would only buy the cheapest and most suitable articles.

THE NORTH POLE.

DR. COOK'S DOCUMENTS.

DECISION OF DANISH SCIENTISTS.

NO PROOF FURNISHED.

LONDON, Dec. 21.

Renter's correspondent at Copenhagen says that the committee of the Royal Society, which was appointed to examine the papers submitted by Dr. Cook, the Arctic explorer, has announced that the documents submitted to it for investigation contain no proof that Dr. Cook reached the North Pole.

Dec. 22.

The committee of the Danish scientists, including Mr. Knud Rasmussen, an Arctic explorer, who from the first supported Dr. Cook, states that Dr. Cook submitted a typewritten report essentially identical with that published in the "New York Herald" and a copy of his notebooks, which contain no astronomical records.

The committee censures Dr. Cook for submitting a report lacking in clear information in an inadmissible degree.

The original notebooks were not produced. Mr. Lonsdale, the secretary to Dr. Cook, states that they were sent by another route to frustrate a plot to steal them.

Press comments in London and New York suggest that the report of the committee ends Dr. Cook's pretensions to have reached the North Pole.

THE CLAPHAM FIRE.

EIGHT BODIES RECOVERED.

DISTRESSING SCENES.

ARDING AND HOBBS'S LOSS.

LONDON, Dec. 21.

The fifth corpse has been recovered from the ruins of the fire which destroyed Messrs. Arding and Hobbs's drapery store at Clapham.

The firm recently refused an American offer of £1,000,000 for the goodwill, stock, and buildings in connection with the business.

Dec. 22.

Five bodies have been found in the ruins of Arding and Hobbs's premises, Clapham, raising the number of deaths to eight.

There were distressing scenes during the roll call of the assistants of the firm yesterday. The head of the firm broke down in announcing the necessity of dismissing the assistants with a week's wages.

KING LEOPOLD'S FUNERAL.

LONDON, Dec. 21.

The Duke of Connaught will represent King Edward at the funeral of King Leopold of Belgium, and Prince Henry will represent the German Emperor.

Yesterday being the date fixed for the funeral of King Leopold in Brussels flags were flown at half-mast at the Governor's residence and at all the public offices.

THE KHEDIVE'S PILGRIMAGE.

SCENE AT MECCA.

LONDON, Dec. 21.

The Khedive of Egypt has arrived at Mecca on pilgrimage. One of the greatest spectacles of the half-century was the service he attended at the Mosque of the Prophet.

GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF SOUTH AFRICA.

MR. H. GLADSTONE.

LONDON, Dec. 22.

Mr. H. Gladstone, Home Secretary, has been gazetted Governor-General of South Africa.

The Right Hon. Herbert John Gladstone, the youngest son of the late W. E. Gladstone, is 55 years of age. His membership of the House of Commons dates from 1886, when he was returned for Liverpool, and he has since represented West Lancs. In the Gladstone Ministry of 1885-6 he acted as Junior Whip, and in 1886 was Financial Secretary to the War Office. Mr. Gladstone was turned to power by Mr. Herbert Gladstone, who was appointed Under-Secretary to the Home Office, holding that position till the resignation of his father. On Lord Rosebery assuming the office of Prime Minister, Mr. Gladstone became First Commissioner of Works, retaining the position till the defeat of the Government in June, 1886. When in opposition the Gladstones were in the front rank of the Liberal Whip, and on the formation of a Government by Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, at the end of 1895, he accepted the office of Home Secretary, and was promoted to the Cabinet. As Home Secretary Mr. Gladstone has not been a success, and that non-success has rendered him more conspicuous by the acknowledged administrative ability of his colleagues.

TRADE UNION LEVIES.

ILLEGAL FOR POLITICAL FUNDS.

JUDGMENT OF HOUSE OF LORDS.

ELECTION CAMPAIGN.

DEFENCE FORCES READY.

BETTER EQUIPPED THAN EVER.

MR. ASQUITH'S CLAIMS.

LONDON, Dec. 22.

Mr. Asquith, Prime Minister, speaking at Liverpool, ridiculed Earl Cawdor's "nerve-shaking picture" of the German occupation of Belfast. After careful inquiry, Mr. Asquith continued, he could say that the navy was able to maintain the supremacy of the seas, not only this year, but in the years before us. Should necessity arise, the fleet was able to guarantee the integrity of our shores, protection of our commerce, and the inviolability of the Empire.

He did not believe, Mr. Asquith said, that the army and navy had been better organised or equipped than to-day, since the close of the Napoleonic wars.

EARL CAWDOR ALARMIST.

GERMANY'S STRENUEOUS EFFORTS.

Earl Cawdor, speaking at Rochdale, said that Germany was building warships rapidly. She was working overtime, while England was sitting still with her hands folded doing nothing.

POLITICS IN THE PULPIT.

LONDON, Dec. 21.

Robert Perks, M.P. (Liberal), treasurer of the Free Church Congress and the London Wesleyan Mission, criticising the action of Free Churchmen in connection with Mr. Lloyd-George's meeting in the Queen's Hall, comments on the marked abstention of Wesleyans. These, he says, will not tolerate politics in the pulpit—in other words, clerical dictation.

Mr. Asquith's programme, Sir Robert Perks continued, is Home Rule for Ireland and socialism for the Labour party, but nothing for Nonconformists.

IRISH PARTY FUNDS.

£10,000 FROM AMERICA.

The visit of Mr. T. P. O'Connor, M.P., to the United States, resulted in a subscription of £10,000 to the funds of the Irish Parliamentary party from Irishmen in the Republic.

Mr. O'Connor states that the endorsement by Mr. Asquith of Home Rule helped to loosen the purse strings.

THE TALLOW SALES.

LONDON, Dec. 22.

At the sales of Australian and New Zealand tallow, 672 casks were offered and 308 were sold, all above late rates.

THE MASKED BURGLAR.

ROBBING A POST-OFFICE.

SENSATIONAL ENCOUNTER.

NEWSEND, Wednesday.

At 4 o'clock on Tuesday morning a masked burglar entered the post-office by the window. He proceeded to the room occupied by Mr. Travers, P.M., and while asleep struck him with a sandbag on the forehead and at the back of the ear. The burglar bound the hands of the official, and inflicted further blows on the head of the head. He then extracted a portion of the sandbag and dropped it through a window with a sharp snap. Before leaving he loosened the postmaster's hands. Mr. Travers, recovering, saw the burglar 300 yards away. The window was without bars, held an ordinary sash fastener, and opened. About £900 was left in the safe untouched.

THIEF'S BAD LUCK.

LITHGOW, Wednesday.

After getting the last together the robber dealt Travers another blow, and left the way he came, through the window. The last blow only partially dazed the postmaster, and on recovering he ran to the safe, which went for assistance and sent for the police. A large amount of gold was ready for transmission in a parcel stamp to some which contained personal documents.

The origin of this second outbreak is unaccounted for, and there are startling statements in the vicinity to the effect that Bowna estate was wilfully set alight. It seems incredible that such a monstrous thing could be possible, but a survey of the ground gives credence to the story. The first started on the opposite side of the township, and the second would seem to render any idea of spark or lightning out of the question. The fire travelled rapidly towards the river, clearing out every padlock, until it was stopped by a lagoon. It crossed the Upper Murray-road, and met the other fire, compounding a circle of destruction.

As showing how misfortune may dog a man's footsteps, the case of a share farmer named Jackson, near Lithgow, in the adjacent Sherriffdom of Campbelltown, is remarkable. The man, who had lost his wife, had a son, and a daughter, and was in the same position as the postmaster.

He had a new ranch, a fine property, and a splendid farm, but he had lost his wife, and the sorrow and worry affected his wife's mind. On Sunday he went to take a walk in the Sydney hills to receive a tonic. As he was going up the opposite bank he looked round and saw him aiming at her again, and fire. Witness heard another shot as she got up, and ran to the spot. The man was lying on the bank of a bushy hollow. She heard a shot, but did not know who fired it. Witness had been married 22 years, and had a family of 14, of whom were dead.

Donaldson, a boy of 16, who had run away from his home, had been missing for five years. Thomas gave her all his earnings to his father.

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make any reply to what Mr. Bowring had said at the sitting of the board. He supposed that he would have to go to the board for the next few days, but after the trouble was over, he would tell them something that would be a revelation to them.

Discussing the strike congress, he said that Mr. Bowring had moved the resolution that the unions should take their instructions solely from congress. Mr. Hughes' pertinent remarks during the last week or so should have let the men see how matters stood. What he said was perfectly true.

Mr. Paterson added that he was not going to talk, but his actions would show his sincerity.

MR. PATERSON'S ALLOWANCE.

COMPARED WITH MR. BOWLING'S.

Inquiry made in official quarters yesterday went to show that there was no fixed payment for the Industrial Disputes Act. The custom has been, it was explained, to regulate allowances in such a way as to compensate members for any loss they might sustain. This was not the case in respect of the Special Committee, of which Mr. Peter Bowring was a member. He received £5 as a sitting, and the sittings, roughly speaking, might have aggregated £50 or over £200.

"ON THEIR OWN."

NORTHERN STRIKE TO GO ON.

LEADERS' SECRET DECISION.

NEWCASTLE, Tuesday. A secret meeting was held in the Trades Hall to-day to consider what the strikers should do in view of the drastic Act passed by Mr. Wade.

No hint of any kind was given that a meeting was to be held. Those who attended at intervals were Mr. Peter Bowring, Mr. Amran Lewis (two of the men now on trial for conspiracy), and Mr. McWhirter (vice-president of the Coal Miners' Association). Mr. Lloyd, president of the Wharf-labour Union, and the local agent of the Seamen's Union (Mr. Walsh) were also present. None of the leaders are at present accessible, regarding the strike, and the policemen, who are always their ready policemen, are absent from their ordinary duties, from them it was not possible to get any information.

The split in the unions ranks, however, results in the unions of miners uniting, and from another quarter, the miners' strike is stated to be the meeting discussed, while it would be possible to circumvent Mr. Wade's new Act. There was considerable discussion in which the idea was combated that the men should be compelled to accept arbitration, it is said, that a system of bush telegraphy be employed to keep the men's spirits up, and urge them to fight the employers to the last. It was agreed generally that the miners' strike was the only way to go, but there was no need to take risks just now.

From another source comes the announcement that another public meeting has been called to be held at the same place as previous meetings, and it is stated that several public men, including the Dean of Newcastle, are to speak.

CONSPIRACY CHARGES.

CROWN CASE CONCLUDES TO-DAY.

NEWCASTLE, Wednesday.

At the meeting of the County Council last night a proposal was made that a public meeting should be called to protest against the passing of the amendments to the Industrial Disputes Act. Members of the council, who were engaged, but excepting local men who were employed, had to leave the meeting, and the mine is now being practically run by union labour.

One of the members present said that he did not think any two men could be found who would not say something that could be construed into a breach of the law. He was not present, but there was no need to take risks just now.

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THE MINERS' MINES.

MINES AGAIN REBEL.

LEVY OF 25 PER CENT. RESANTED.

NEWCASTLE, Wednesday. The indications are that the men, Wallens and others, will not continue to work much longer. On the last fortnight a pay drawn by the men employed on the federation imposed a tax of 10 per cent. This was paid under protest, and was followed by a couple of days' strike. Now, however, the federation, in giving a further indication of its power, has ordered that for the current fortnight the men shall contribute no less than 25 per cent. of their earnings to the general fund. The miners' strike will have to work about the same as nothing.

When the order became known there was a howl of indignation. The demand, however, is peremptory, the penalty for not complying, the men's strike, and the union with the brand of blacklisting as a consequence. Under the circumstances, the miners employed on the two collieries have intimated their preference to strike, if at all, and there is every likelihood of both mines being closed down by the end of the week.

In some quarters this action by the federation is not popular, and the miners' strike is regarded as being a good deal of jealousy among other miners in the district.

UNION FUNDS.

MR. WADE'S INTIMATION.

FEELING AT THE TRADES HALL.

WHAT MR. HUGHES THINKS.

Mr. Wade's assertion that it is not permissible to divert trade-union funds into strike channels, that any unionist can obtain an injunction to restrain the disposal of the funds in this way, has not been at all favourably received at the Trades Hall.

There is not the slightest likelihood of any unionist seeking such an injunction. For some time most of the unions have been particularly averse to their donations to the strike, and the South Australian Labour Council issued the following manifesto:

DEFEATED BY THE WEST.

CLIFTON, Wednesday. Several miners interviewed to-day said: "There is no use disputing the fact that we have been defeated by the western men, and that continues working is nothing left for us to do but work again, and we ought to do every endeavour to have our grievances redressed. But even if the men here decide to resume, it is unlikely that any definite steps will be taken before the new year. Resumption, however, is the only thing that would be taken to-day for the purpose of certaining the men's views on the question of returning to the mines, but the ballot has not yet been taken. Miners deny any knowledge of the proposal."

CLIFTON. Wednesday. "I see Mr. Wade has been looking into the question of the legality of contributions out of the union funds towards the strike," said Mr. Hughes last night. "He is very definite in his opinion, but he has not yet had time to blurt or certify the unions from granting relief to the strikers. He is not satisfied with attempting to display his partiality by crushing the unions, but he is also prepared to do so. The unions are now in every case used to provide men, women, and children with the bare necessities of life. We have, in this country, some of the poorest that any man can live on, and when the verge of starvation without asking Mr. Wade."

"If we compare his attitude towards the men and the employers, we see what kind of a shadow he may be right—that we can't even give food to those who want it, without committing an offence against his Act. But I venture to say that in spite of that food will be given."

CLIFTON, Wednesday. The delegates who were appointed last week to go to Sydney with the view of securing additional support for the South Clifton miners, who have now been out of work for three months, returned yesterday, having met with a very fair reception. They had arranged for the purchase of sufficient supplies to tide the miners' families over Christmas.

At a special meeting of the Adelaide branch of the Amalgamated Society of Engineers, it was unanimously decided to support the Australian Council's proposal to vote £1000 towards the Newcastle strike fund.

THE GAS SHORTAGE.

THE CITY SUPPLY.

Supplies of coal for the Australian Gaslight Company have commenced to come forward, a small quantity being sent by yesterday. No difficulty is anticipated in obtaining all that is required to carry on the city services.

NORTH SYDNEY SUPPLY.

Mr. Morland, manager of the North Shore Gas Company, last night stated that he anticipated turning on the gas again to-night. "We succeeded in getting our first 800 tons, previously arranged for this morning," he said. "The gas was delivered at Pyrmont in trucks, from which it had to be shovelled to the lighters. Consequently the work of transfer was somewhat slow. The wind, however, was in the afternoon, the returning plank work, and a certain amount was landed at the works, and I hope to see the gas available by

to-morrow. We have made arrangements to that end, so that consumers will be as little inconvenienced as possible."

NORTH.

RE-ELECTED.

THE FEDERATION OFFICERS.

NEWCASTLE, Wednesday.

For some time past the miners' lodges through the district have been balloting for the election of the executive officers of the federation. The returns are not yet complete, but enough is known of the result to forecast pretty accurately that, as was expected at the beginning of the strike, Mr. Bowring and the other members of the executive will be re-elected. The miners' strike has prominently into the limelight during the last six weeks that all opposition has been killed, and they are safe for another year.

CHRISTMAS PREPARATIONS.

COMFORT OF THE CHILDREN.

NEWCASTLE, Wednesday.

With the near approach of Christmas the relief committees formed by the Miner's Federation are finding their funds put to a severe strain. The miners who had put away a little prior to the strike have come to the end of their resources, and daily there are more applications for assistance.

The central relief committee, formed by the miners' lodges, is in the process of collecting subscriptions, and through subscripts are still coming in, the outlook is promising. In many a miner's home there will be a scarcity. If not an unknown quantity, it is a heavy one. The miners' strike is now in its tenth week, and the residents are making special efforts to see that children at least will be provided for. Public meetings are being held, and subscriptions gathered to give the little ones a Christmas. Nationalization."

INVINCIBLE COLLIERY WORKING.

FREE LABOURERS DISCHARGED.

PORLTAND, Wednesday.

Word has been brought to the miners at the Invincible Colliery, Culver's Bullens, resumed work this morning. During the strike, the miners had been discharged, and were engaged, but excepting local men who were employed, had to leave the mine. The men were discharged, and the mine is now being practically run by union labour.

Mr. J. S. Bragg, secretary of the Lithgow Coal Association, said yesterday that the first shift would not be in proper working order for at least a week. After that time provision could be made for the second shift.

THE RAILWAYS.

CHRISTMAS TRAINS.

EXCURSIONS TO RUN.

ADDITIONS AND ALTERATIONS.

ILLAWARRA LINE.

One of the most satisfactory features in connection with the return to work of the western miners, so far as the general public is concerned is the manner in which it will be associated with the running of cheap excursion trains. It is now announced that tickets at 2d per mile first-class return (minimum 2d) and 1d per mile second-class return (minimum 1d) will be issued at Sydney and all stations at which the trains are timed to call at any train within one calendar month from date of issue. The following cheap trains will be issued from Sydney:

ILLAWARRA LINE.

Thursday, Dec. 23—8 a.m. to Moss Vale, 5 p.m. to Bundanoon, 4 p.m. to Cambewarra, 4.30 p.m. to Bowral, 5.20 p.m. to Goulburn, 6 p.m. to Bowral, 7 p.m. to Cambewarra, 8 p.m. to Bowral, 9 p.m. to Goulburn, 10 p.m. to Bowral, 11 p.m. to Moss Vale. To Moss Vale, 7.30 a.m. to Bowral, 8.30 a.m. to Cambewarra, 9.30 a.m. to Bowral, 10.30 a.m. to Moss Vale.

Mr. Lamb intimated that there would be only three more witnesses for the Crown, and that the evidence would probably be concluded to-morrow morning.

SOUTH.

MINES STILL IDLE.

NO WORK BEFORE NEW YEAR.

WOLLONGONG, Wednesday.

All hopes of an early settlement of the miners' strike have now been abandoned until after the new year. The miners' general secretary said that a meeting would be held to-night, but he could not be sure that it would be held until New Year's Eve.

DISTRIBUTION OF STRIKE PAY.

CONFIDENCE IN PETER BOWLING.

CLIFTON, Wednesday.

At yesterday's meeting of the South Clifton Miners' Association, a motion was made to the miners' funds to the extent of 2d per cent. for each member and 2d for each child. A motion of confidence in Peter Bowring was also carried, and a resolution passed that Mr. Paterson be asked to visit the South Coast.

WERE WESTERN MEN MISLED?

CLIFTON, Wednesday.

The news that the western miners are again at work was received with a mixture of mingled feelings of satisfaction and disappointment. Some contend that the men must have been misled, otherwise they would not have returned to work in the south. The majority, however, admit that the resumption of work in the Lithgow district is the turning point in the strike, and that it is only a matter of time when the South Coast must also resume.

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Several miners interviewed to-day said: "There is no use disputing the fact that we have been defeated by the western men, and that continues working is nothing left for us to do but work again, and we ought to do every endeavour to have our grievances redressed. But even if the men here decide to resume, it is unlikely that any definite steps will be taken before the new year. Resumption, however, is the only thing that would be taken to-day for the purpose of certaining the men's views on the question of returning to the mines, but the ballot has not yet been taken. Miners deny any knowledge of the proposal."

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COLLIERS WORKING.

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THE GAS SHORTAGE.

The delegates who were appointed last

SPORTING.

THE TURF.

Perfekt for the A.J.C. Summer Cup falls due at 4 p.m. to-day, and all horses remaining in after that hour incur the full liability for the race.

At noon to-day Messrs. Wm. Ingles and Son will submit to public auction the privilege to charge at the entrance gates during the currency of Tattersall's Club annual race meeting.

The scratchings recorded yesterday in connection with the A.J.C. Handicaps and Trial Stakes—Cheltenham, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st, 32nd, 33rd, 34th, 35th, 36th, 37th, 38th, 39th, 40th, 41st, 42nd, 43rd, 44th, 45th, 46th, 47th, 48th, 49th, 50th, 51st, 52nd, 53rd, 54th, 55th, 56th, 57th, 58th, 59th, 60th, 61st, 62nd, 63rd, 64th, 65th, 66th, 67th, 68th, 69th, 70th, 71st, 72nd, 73rd, 74th, 75th, 76th, 77th, 78th, 79th, 80th, 81st, 82nd, 83rd, 84th, 85th, 86th, 87th, 88th, 89th, 90th, 91st, 92nd, 93rd, 94th, 95th, 96th, 97th, 98th, 99th, 100th, 101st, 102nd, 103rd, 104th, 105th, 106th, 107th, 108th, 109th, 110th, 111th, 112th, 113th, 114th, 115th, 116th, 117th, 118th, 119th, 120th, 121st, 122nd, 123rd, 124th, 125th, 126th, 127th, 128th, 129th, 130th, 131st, 132nd, 133rd, 134th, 135th, 136th, 137th, 138th, 139th, 140th, 141st, 142nd, 143rd, 144th, 145th, 146th, 147th, 148th, 149th, 150th, 151st, 152nd, 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1009th, 1010th, 1011st, 1012nd, 1013rd, 1014th, 1015th, 1016th, 1017th, 1018th, 1019th, 1020th, 1021st, 1022nd, 1023rd, 1024th, 1025th, 1026th, 1027th, 1028th, 1029th, 1030th, 1031st, 1032nd, 1033rd, 1034th, 1035th, 1036th, 1037th, 1038th, 1039th, 1040th, 1041st, 1042nd, 1043rd, 1044th, 1045th, 1046th, 1047th, 1048th, 1049th, 1050th, 1051st, 1052nd, 1053rd, 1054th, 1055th, 1056th, 1057th, 1058th, 1059th, 1060th, 1061st, 1062nd, 1063rd, 1064th, 1065th, 1066th, 1067th, 1068th, 1069th, 1070th, 1071st, 1072nd, 1073rd, 1074th, 1075th, 1076th, 1077th, 1078th, 1079th, 1080th, 1081st, 1082nd, 1083rd, 1084th, 1085th, 1086th, 1087th, 1088th, 1089th, 1090th, 1091st, 1092nd, 1093rd, 1094th, 1095th, 1096th, 1097th, 1098th, 1099th, 1100th, 1101st, 1102nd, 1103rd, 1104th, 1105th, 1106th, 1107th, 1108th, 1109th, 1110th, 1111st, 1112nd, 1113rd, 1114th, 1115th, 1116th, 1117th, 1118th, 1119th, 1120th, 1121st, 1122nd, 1123rd, 1124th, 1125th, 1126th, 1127th, 1128th, 1129th, 1130th, 1131st, 1132nd, 1133rd, 1134th, 1135th, 1136th, 1137th, 1138th, 1139th, 1140th, 1141st, 1142nd, 1143rd, 1144th, 1145th, 1146th, 1147th, 1148th, 1149th, 1150th, 1151st, 1152nd, 1153rd, 1154th, 1155th, 1156th, 1157th, 1158th, 1159th, 1160th, 1161st, 1162nd, 1163rd, 1164th, 1165th, 1166th, 1167th, 1168th, 1169th, 1170th, 1171st, 1172nd, 1173rd, 1174th, 1175th, 1176th, 1177th, 1178th, 1179th, 1180th, 1181st, 1182nd, 1183rd, 1184th, 1185th, 1186th, 1187th, 1188th, 1189th, 1190th, 1191st, 1192nd, 1193rd, 1194th, 1195th, 1196th, 1197th, 1198th, 1199th, 1200th, 1201st, 1202nd, 1203rd, 1204th, 1205th, 1206th, 1207th, 1208th, 1209th, 1210th, 1211st, 1212nd, 1213rd, 1214th, 1215th, 1216th, 1217th, 1218th, 1219th, 1220th, 1221st, 1222nd, 1223rd, 1224th, 1225th, 1226th, 1227th, 1228th, 122

